



OSS Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 17 2016, 1:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Environmental Health Services, 14350 SE Eastgate Way, Bellevue, WA 98007

Convene & Housekeeping (Jay Watson, facilitator)

Jay Watson welcome Work Group members. The following meeting materials were distributed:

- ▶ Meeting agenda;
- ▶ PowerPoint presentation for the meeting;
- ▶ Table of draft budget/work scenarios we'll discuss to get your feedback; and
- ▶ List of possible criteria for prioritizing both high-risk OSS and high-risk areas.

Work Group members were offered an opportunity to review and ask questions about the April meeting notes and two recommendations from that meeting.

- 1. Requiring inspections of the homeowner portion of LOSS; and**
- 2. Requiring electronic submittal of all OSS inspection and service reports.**

Work Group Member Comments and Questions:

- 1. Work Group members discussed the pros and cons of recommendation 1 for LOSS inspections and reached general agreement that the homeowner portion of all LOSS should be inspected every 3 to 4 years and at time of transfer/sale.**
- 2. With regard to recommendation 2, submitting all OSS inspection and service reports electronically, there was general consensus that it is the trend, other jurisdictions require it and that it should be implemented in King County.**

Presentation of OSS Program funding, budgets & activities (Lynn Schneider, PH OSS Program Staff)

Jay briefly presented the agenda for the day. He reviewed updated OSS statistics, which include:

- ▶ There are 88,000 OSS throughout King County. Each OSS serves approx. 2.5 people, which means that approx. 220,000 people are served by OSS throughout King County. That number of people is a larger population than Spokane, Tacoma or Bellevue – that population is larger than any city in Washington State other than Seattle.
- ▶ This decentralized wastewater treatment infrastructure treats 15.2 million gallons of sewage per day. Approximately 30,000 OSS in King County were installed prior to modern safety standards, which could equate to 1.9 billion gallons of insufficiently treated wastewater entering the environment annually.

Jay also went over the “Four Pillars” of an OSS Program as a refresher prior to the conversation about the current OSS program.

Work Group Member Comments:

There was extensive discussion about Public Health’s OSS Program, with many questions and answers between the Work Group and Public Health staff. In summary, the Work Group made the following general recommendations:

- 1. The residents of one area should not pay for addressing OSS problems in another area.**
- 2. Public Health should continue to use grant funding to the greatest extent possible to support the OSS program.**
- 3. Budgeting should be done for bodies of work that are one-time actions (e.g., the OSS inventory) then the budget should be reduced after that work is completed.**
- 4. Public Health should engage the communities with OSS problems and use the community planning approach to plan for and address those problems.**
- 5. Public Health should improve/maximize coordination between agencies.**
- 6. Public Health should research other counties’ OSS program approaches to see what can be adopted from them.**

Discussion of hypothetical future scenarios for OSS Program activities & Budgets (Lynn Schneider, PH OSS Program Staff)
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The Work Group then reviewed the funding/programmatic scenarios drafted by Public Health staff, to focus the discussion on what the Work Group thought should be prioritized as most important.

Work Group Member Comments:

Several Work Group members suggested that top priorities should be education & outreach, technical assistance, and low-interest loans.

Another person stated that enforcement works better than education for recalcitrant OSS owners, but it also reinforces the negative relationship between homeowners and government.

A comment was made that suggested that getting OSS problems addressed at time-of-transfer/sale was difficult.

The Work Group agreed that a complete OSS program (column 4 in the budget scenarios table) was desirable, but the real question is how to fund it. A discussion about priorities doesn’t have any context without discussing funding.

Some comments about using fees for funding included building in incentives so that those in compliance/current on inspections didn’t have to pay a fee and those with failures who were not current with inspections had to pay. There was also concern that a fee would be set but would then go up like the stormwater fee.

Other items on the agenda were not addressed because the previous discussions ran long. Those items (prioritization of high-risk areas & OSS) will be taken up at the June 28th Work Group meeting.

Public Comments

No additional public comments were made.

Meeting Recap (Jay Watson)

Next Steps

Work Group members should look at the Puget Sound Septic Finance Committee's report and recommendations (the link will be posted on the OSS Plan Update webpage). Jay handed out a list of the Thurston County OSS Plan Update Work Group's recommendations as information for our Work Group.

All meeting related materials would be posted on the OSS Plan Update webpage at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/2016-oss-plan-update.aspx>, as well as printed and provided to each Work Group member, for inclusion in their binders, at subsequent meetings. Jay also said that if Work Group members had ideas for additional presentation topics, they should contact him with those suggestions.

Meeting Attendees

Work Group Members:

- Tanya McFarlane, City of Redmond
- Dave Hudson, Columbia Land Services
- Trudy Rolla, Northshore Utility District
- JR Inman, NW Cascade, Inc.
- Gwendolyn High, Community Alliance to Reach out and Engage
- Ralph Svrjcek, WA Dept. of Ecology
- David Crowell, Seattle-King Realtors Association
- Dave Winfrey, Puyallup Tribe
- Warren Iverson, Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council
- Deidre Finley, Black Diamond Gardens
- Alison Butcher, Master Builders
- Robert Elwell, City of Auburn
- George Streepy, G&N Septic Tank Service
- Jean Pearson, Green Valley/Lake Holm Association
- Doug Navetski, King County DNRP-WLRD Stormwater
- Mary Jane Goss, Seattle-King Realtors Association

Staff & Contractors:

- Lynn Schneider, PH OSS Program
- Terri Jenkins-Mclean, PH OSS Program
- Jay Watson, EPM, LLC, Contract Facilitator
- Natasha Walker, Kellogg Consulting, Inc., Contract Meeting Recorder

Audience Members and Other Attendees: